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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 13 July 2009, at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Muñoz ..... (Chile)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda (PBC/3/OC/20)

1. *The agenda was adopted.*

Report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (A/63/881-S/2009/304)

2. **The Chairperson** recalled that the Commission remained the only United Nations intergovernmental organ dedicated to championing the cause of post-conflict peacebuilding. Its activities were part of an integrated approach to peacebuilding designed to reinforce the three main pillars of United Nations work, namely security, development and human rights.

3. The Peacebuilding Commission had been in close contact with the Peacebuilding Support Office throughout the drafting of the Secretary-General's report. It had therefore been able to contribute a number of ideas to the report, which focused on the particular challenges that countries faced in the first two years following a period of conflict.

Statement by the Secretary-General

4. **The Secretary-General** recalled that it had been one year since the Security Council had requested a report on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict. Since that time, an intense process of consultations had been under way. He was grateful to the Peacebuilding Commission for its vital engagement in that process. The views of the Commission had been invaluable in shaping the present report. Indeed, the Commission had had a critical role to play in championing and promoting the agenda outlined therein. He was also grateful for the opportunity to present the report to the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission prior to its formal submission to the Security Council later in the month.

5. The report focused on the crucial two-year window when conflict had ended but insecurity often persisted and peace was fragile. When guns became still, hope stirred. People and institutions were then ready for change and a new way of resolving problems. They anxiously, and perhaps naturally, expected a peace dividend. Yet too often, the hopes for that dividend were dashed and the window of opportunity was missed.

6. If peace was to be sustainable, the international community must make the most of those make-or-break moments and provide the right support at the right time. Such was the motivation and the essence of the present report, which built on the lessons of the past few years, including in those countries being considered by the Peacebuilding Commission. The report also emphasized the importance of building on the successful reforms already under way, such as humanitarian reform, "delivering as one" and integrated peace operations, rather than focusing on the creation of new mechanisms.

7. The challenges facing countries emerging from conflict were enormous. First, the report highlighted the need for national ownership in order to anchor peacebuilding at the country level. In that context, the United Nations and the international community should play a catalytic and supporting role and should help to build national capacity from the earliest days.

8. Second, Member States expected the United Nations to be poised and ready to lead the international community. The report had therefore called for the creation of a senior-level mechanism to ensure that the right leadership and support teams were in place as early as possible.

9. Third, effective peacebuilding required input from all parts of the United Nations system: peacemaking, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and recovery must happen together. Coordination was therefore crucial to success and fragmentation must be avoided.

10. Fourth, there was an urgent need for national and international actors to align behind and provide financial support for a common strategic vision with realistic priorities. In some cases, such efforts had taken years. In most cases, they had never taken place. He therefore called on the international community to take the swift action required.

11. Fifth, there was a need for predictable and credible delivery. He would therefore be asking Member States to help the United Nations build its capacity to respond rapidly to the most urgent needs in order to protect civilians and strengthen the rule of law, to support political processes, to help restore basic services and Government functions, and to revitalize the economy. In order to jump-start action, it was also necessary to have pre-positioned pooled funds proportionate to the tasks at hand, such as the

Peacebuilding Fund, followed by faster funding from other sources.

12. All of those challenges were mutually reinforcing and none fell within the remit of any single organization. Strategic partnerships were therefore essential, including partnerships with the World Bank, regional organizations, civil society and the private sector. Member States must also play their part by speaking with one voice at the different multilateral forums, by aligning bilateral support behind the common strategy of each country and by providing faster, more flexible and more risk-tolerant funding.

13. The role of the Peacebuilding Commission was clearly also critical. He therefore encouraged the Commission to build upon its efforts to mobilize resources, to promote national ownership of peacebuilding by bridging peace and development concerns and to increase the focus on countries emerging from conflict. He also called on the members of the Commission to champion the report and to help him implement its vision.

14. In preparation for the review the following year, he encouraged the Commission to examine how it could enhance its peacebuilding role in the areas outlined in its founding resolutions, including the ways in which the Commission could promote partnerships for peacebuilding and ensure the operational relevance of its advice.

15. The report was a work in progress. As such, it marked a beginning rather than an end. It was also part of a series of related initiatives, including the recent report of the Secretary-General on enhancing mediation and its support activities (S/2009/189), the revision of the terms of reference of the Peacebuilding Fund and the ongoing discussions on peacekeeping. All shared a common goal: to consolidate and strengthen the response of the United Nations in the area of peace and security.

16. While those challenges were not new, a new urgency was needed to ensure that resources were used more efficiently by promoting a more coherent, effective and focused response. The support and commitment of the members of the Peacebuilding Commission would be necessary in order to make the necessary changes to the United Nations system and to achieve real change.

17. All too often, innocent people paid the price of war. The members of the Peacebuilding Commission must therefore work to ensure that they reaped the dividends of peace. He looked forward to working alongside the Peacebuilding Commission in order to meet that challenge.

18. **Mr. Zinsou** (Benin) said that, while the report correctly recognized that there were no "one-size-fits-all" solutions to post-conflict peacebuilding, it had clearly identified the recurrent strategic areas of action necessary to prevent the resurgence of conflict. The implementation of a coherent strategy based on the real needs identified by the Peacebuilding Commission would help to strengthen national capacities, improve complementarity and, ultimately, guarantee the delivery of peace dividends.

19. It was particularly important to mobilize sufficient human resources in order to provide the assistance urgently required in post-conflict situations. In that connection, the idea of establishing rapidly deployable standing and standby capacities within a United Nations framework deserved further consideration. More in-depth analysis of the role played by the diaspora would also have been useful in the report, particularly in view of the important contribution that expatriates could make to post-conflict countries upon their return.

20. His delegation welcomed the agenda for action contained in the report and encouraged the Secretary-General to do everything within his power to overcome the fragmented nature of governance across the United Nations system in order to ensure the effectiveness of its coordination efforts. The Secretary-General should also work to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and other international and regional organizations, as well as bilateral cooperation agencies.

21. The contribution made by the Peacebuilding Commission to the adoption of strategic frameworks for action had demonstrated its effectiveness as a forum for consultation and for the harmonization of approaches. Furthermore, given the complementary roles of the Commission and the Security Council, it was appropriate that the latter should request the Commission's advisory opinion on matters related to defining and reviewing the mandates of peacekeeping operations.

22. There was a need for better coordination of current financing arrangements. While greater generosity was needed from donors, it was also important to strengthen the role of the Peacebuilding Fund in order to ensure swift disbursement and flexibility in the selection of beneficiaries. Lastly, he noted that it was the responsibility of the Secretary-General and the Peacebuilding Support Office to enforce the guiding principles of the terms of reference for the Peacebuilding Fund.

23. **Mr. Heller** (Mexico) said that coherent and comprehensive peacekeeping strategies were essential in the immediate aftermath of conflict and that national ownership was crucial to the effectiveness of such efforts. The actions taken should therefore provide an appropriate level of support for national capacities, including by incorporating the priorities of local stakeholders, with a view to achieving national reconciliation. Political efforts aimed at reconciliation were particularly important in that context.

24. In addition to addressing the priority areas identified in the report, it was equally important for the Peacebuilding Commission to provide for the basic needs of populations in the aftermath of conflict, since such action would help to build trust between society and Government and could therefore help prevent a relapse into conflict.

25. His delegation welcomed the agenda put forward by the Secretary-General to strengthen the United Nations contribution to a more rapid and effective response in the immediate aftermath of conflict. It also supported his initiatives to recruit qualified personnel, particularly from the Global South, to carry out peacebuilding operations both at Headquarters and in the field.

26. His delegation understood the relevance of establishing a senior-level mechanism to ensure that leadership teams were in place to support United Nations operations on the ground. However, it wished to have more information on the composition, specific functions and financial implications of such a mechanism.

27. His delegation also welcomed the signature of the Partnership Framework Agreement between the United Nations and the World Bank to strengthen cooperation in crisis and post-crisis contexts. The Agreement should help to improve strategic coordination between the two organizations and the impact of their collective work. It also agreed with the Secretary-General that measures should be taken to provide more flexible, rapid, predictable and risk-tolerant funding modalities for countries emerging from conflict. In that respect, donors should be encouraged to adhere to disbursement calendars for resources so that the relevant strategies could be financed in a timely manner.

28. The Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council should all seek the advice of the Peacebuilding Commission in a number of contexts, including resource mobilization, the coordination of efforts with entities outside the United Nations system and the elaboration and implementation of peacebuilding strategic frameworks in coordination with local actors.

29. All national, regional and international actors had a shared responsibility towards the success of the peacebuilding process. His delegation therefore urged the international community to make the necessary commitments to control illicit trafficking in arms and ammunition in post-conflict countries.

30. **Mr. Takasu** (Japan) said that in the immediate aftermath of conflict, support was often not available on the ground. Failure to take swift action had often proved costly in the long term. The report made many valuable recommendations, and four points deserved particular attention. First, the implementation of the recommendations was most straightforward where there was no peacekeeping operation. Yet, given that the immediate aftermath of conflict was defined as the first two years after the ending of the main conflict, such peacekeeping operations were normally in place. In such cases, it was necessary to consider to what extent peacekeeping missions could be expanded to include such activities as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, security reform, governance, the rule of law, and capacity-building.

31. Second, joint international efforts should begin with a common vision and a priority plan. There was a need to identify the actors responsible for formulating such a plan. In the immediate aftermath of the conflict, the most senior United Nations official on the ground should be expected to take the lead. In due course, the United Nations presence would be strengthened, and that structure would be responsible for formulating an integrated strategy. Coordination between the field and Headquarters must be consolidated, and the responsibilities of Headquarters agencies clearly

delineated. As indicated in paragraph 34 of the report, a functional senior-level mechanism should be developed at Headquarters. It might be realistic to designate the department most closely involved with a particular situation as the lead department for the country in question.

32. Third, implementation capacity should be strengthened. A standing capacity for rapid reaction, the maintenance of a roster, the provision of training and the expansion of the Peacebuilding Fund and of multi-donor trust funds all deserved close consideration. Any new mechanisms would need to be attractive for donors.

33. Fourth, the strength of the Peacebuilding Commission lay in its ability to coordinate on the basis of an integrated strategy. Its responsibilities should not be extended beyond its capacity. At the same time, Japan was willing to examine how the Commission could make a difference in the early phase of post-conflict recovery.

34. **Mr. Lidén** (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that recommendations contained in the report were in urgent need of implementation. The States members of the European Union were prepared to support the Secretary-General's efforts in that direction. Peacebuilding efforts should immediately follow the signing of a peace agreement. All aspects of those efforts should be considered from the outset. The European Union welcomed the emphasis in the report on national ownership and stakeholder involvement. In particular, efforts might be needed to reach out to women, youth and minority groups.

35. The European Union supported the recommendation that effective and accountable United Nations leaders should be present on the ground in order to promote agreement on an early strategy. The report rightly drew attention to the need for clearer delineation of roles and responsibilities both within the Organization and between it and the World Bank. The designated lead agencies should make the appropriate investments in order to provide timely and predictable support. Those arrangements should be reviewed regularly. It was also important to clarify the role of the Peacebuilding Support Office and draw on its full potential.

36. Effective peacebuilding required the rapid deployment of civilian experts. The Standing Police Capacity could be developed and extended to other areas of the rule of law. The European Union looked forward to an overall review of ways to increase the numbers of civilian experts, particularly from affected regions and from the South. Future recommendations would address the implementation of joint needs assessments, planning and support.

37. The report correctly recognized the need for the Peacebuilding Fund to fulfil a more timely and flexible role in the early stages of a peace process. It also gave due importance to effective multi-donor trust funds and measures to make funding faster and more flexible. The European Union was committed to a timely conclusion of the Development Assistance Committee discussions in order to generate donor and agency reforms.

38. The Peacebuilding Commission was unique in its membership structure, its country-specific approach and its record in engaging civil society. It should fulfil a central role in monitoring implementation of the Secretary-General's report.

39. **The Secretary-General** said that the views of the Peacebuilding Commission were especially important. He was grateful for the opportunity to hear them before presenting the report to the Security Council. The comments had been constructive. Member States had indicated that the report provided a direction for peacebuilding and a more effective United Nations.

40. It was encouraging that the key priorities in the report had been endorsed, and in particular, national ownership of peacebuilding and the need to provide basic services to the population after conflict. There should be a greater interface in planning peacekeeping operations and peacebuilding efforts.

41. He was committed to improving coordination and coherence between United Nations Headquarters entities in support of peacebuilding. The report attempted to develop a seamless approach between peacebuilding and peacekeeping strategies, which were integrally related. Peacebuilding was normally considered in the context of specific issues and countries; however, the report also identified some general principles. He looked forward to the continuing engagement and support of Member States.

The meeting was suspended at 3.50 p.m. and resumed at 3.55 p.m.

Follow-up to the election of the Chairperson of the country-specific configuration on Burundi

42. **The Chairperson** recalled that on 29 June 2009, the Committee had elected Mr. Peter Maurer, Permanent Representative of Switzerland, to succeed Mr. Anders Lidén, Permanent Representative of Sweden, as Chairperson of the Burundi configuration.

43. **Mr. Maurer** (Switzerland) said any discussion of the Secretary-General's recommendations must lead to a collective commitment to support countries emerging from conflict. The Commission was in a unique position to enable coordination between all actors in order to foster stability and sustainable development.

44. Switzerland's engagement with Burundi, which had begun in the 1960s, was focused on facilitating political dialogue, controlling small arms and light weapons, and promoting transitional justice, governance and health services. The 2010 elections would play a determining part in consolidating the considerable progress made thus far. The country-specific meeting on Burundi would allow the international community to develop a long-term vision. True success would depend on the strategies and initiatives adopted by the Government. The Commission must notably encourage the establishment of a transitional justice mechanism. Switzerland would build on the achievements of its predecessors, and looked forward to cooperating with the local configuration and the newly created Partnership for Peace.

45. **Mr. Nkurabagaya** (Burundi) said that the commitment and professionalism of the Permanent Representative of Sweden had greatly assisted the reconciliation process. His country had now made substantial progress. The National Liberation Force had now disarmed and gained recognition as a political party. All parties looked forward to working with the new Chairperson to resolve outstanding issues, particularly disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and the organization of the 2010 elections in a spirit of reconciliation and dialogue.

46. **Mr. Lidén** (Sweden) said that the last year had seen considerable progress. He hoped that the Commission would help to ensure security before and after the elections. The reintegration of former combatants and returnees to Burundi constituted another priority. The Commission should give impetus to the local Peacebuilding Commission and ensure direct communication between the local configuration and Headquarters. Sweden would continue to engage with Burundi and other country-specific configurations.

The meeting rose at 4.05 p.m.